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**REGIONAL MEDICAL  
EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

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# 2018 Annual Report

Washoe County  
Regional Medical  
Examiner's Office

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# Chief's Report

## History and Current Status

The history of the Medical Examiner's Office can be summed up in the pre-2007 and post-2007 eras. Prior to 2007, the office was the Washoe County Coroner Office (WCCO) and was managed by a layperson coroner. Pathologists were retained on a contract basis to perform autopsies, and frequently also actively practiced hospital pathology at the same time. Effective July 1, 2007, the Board of County Commissioners approved county code changes that established a Medical Examiner system in Washoe County, and the office became known as the Washoe County Medical Examiner-Coroner Office. A forensic pathologist was the Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, and employed a second forensic pathologist as a full-time Assistant Medical Examiner; numerous part-time locum tenens pathologists from across the country were added over time to handle the increasing regional caseload. A Deputy Chief Medical Examiner position was added in 2015 due to both caseload and the need for succession planning. Dr. Ellen Clark was the first Chief Medical Examiner of the office and retired at the end of 2016 after many years of dedicated service.

The office relocated in January 2017 to the current site, 990 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, to a modern, state-of-the-art facility, newly constructed in 2016. The office rebranded at this time the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO).

Dr. Laura Knight, previously Deputy Chief Medical Examiner from 2015-2016, became Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner in January 2017 and remains in that position. Assistant Medical Examiner vacancies were filled in late 2016 to early 2017, and a newly created third Assistant Medical Examiner position was filled in July 2017. In June 2018, a vacancy was created for the position of Assistant Medical Examiner. The position remained vacant for the remainder of 2018 during recruitment and was ultimately filled in 2019.

Total deaths reported to WCRMEO in 2018 reached an all-time high of 4,996. This includes Washoe County deaths and all outside referral counties. Total deaths reported has increased steadily over the years; the 2018 total represents a 7% increase over 2017, and a 31% increase over 2015. WCRMEO pathologists also performed more autopsies than any prior year, 832 (full autopsies and head-only autopsies). This number has steadily risen over the years and represents an increase of 29% since 2015.

The office was budgeted for four full-time, board-certified forensic pathologists who perform autopsies and other medical examinations. The annual autopsy caseload must be divided in such a way that no individual pathologist is over-burdened, the Chief has sufficient time for administrative duties, and the office can meet per-pathologist caseload requirements for national accreditation. As caseload continues to grow in our growing region, additional pathologists (part-time contractual or full-time) will need to be budgeted.

## Future Goals

Future goals and priorities of the office include national accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners; continuing partnerships with organ and tissue donation organizations; mass fatality preparedness; and increased academic partnership with the University, including a possible fellowship training program to produce future forensic pathologists. We will continue to be the regional referral center for high quality autopsies, providing services on a contract basis to 18 additional counties in Nevada and Northern California, and the regional center for excellence in medicolegal death investigation. We will continue to conduct high quality mass fatality training exercises, and training conferences on medicolegal death investigation for surrounding county coroners and law enforcement. We will enhance the education of medical students, through cooperation with the University of Nevada-Reno School of Medicine, hopefully, recruiting more future forensic pathologists to the field, in which there is a dire shortage. Finally, and most importantly, we will strive to continue to serve the citizens of Washoe County with diligence, respect, and compassion, at a time when many of them are having the worst day of their lives, having lost a loved one.

## Final Words

This report represents the third annual statistical and informational report of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office. It is my sincere hope that other community agencies, community leaders, law enforcement, regional county coroners, and citizens may find it interesting and useful. Additionally, I hope this data may be of use in prevention efforts, as many of the deaths that come to the attention of the Medical Examiner/Coroner are ultimately preventable.

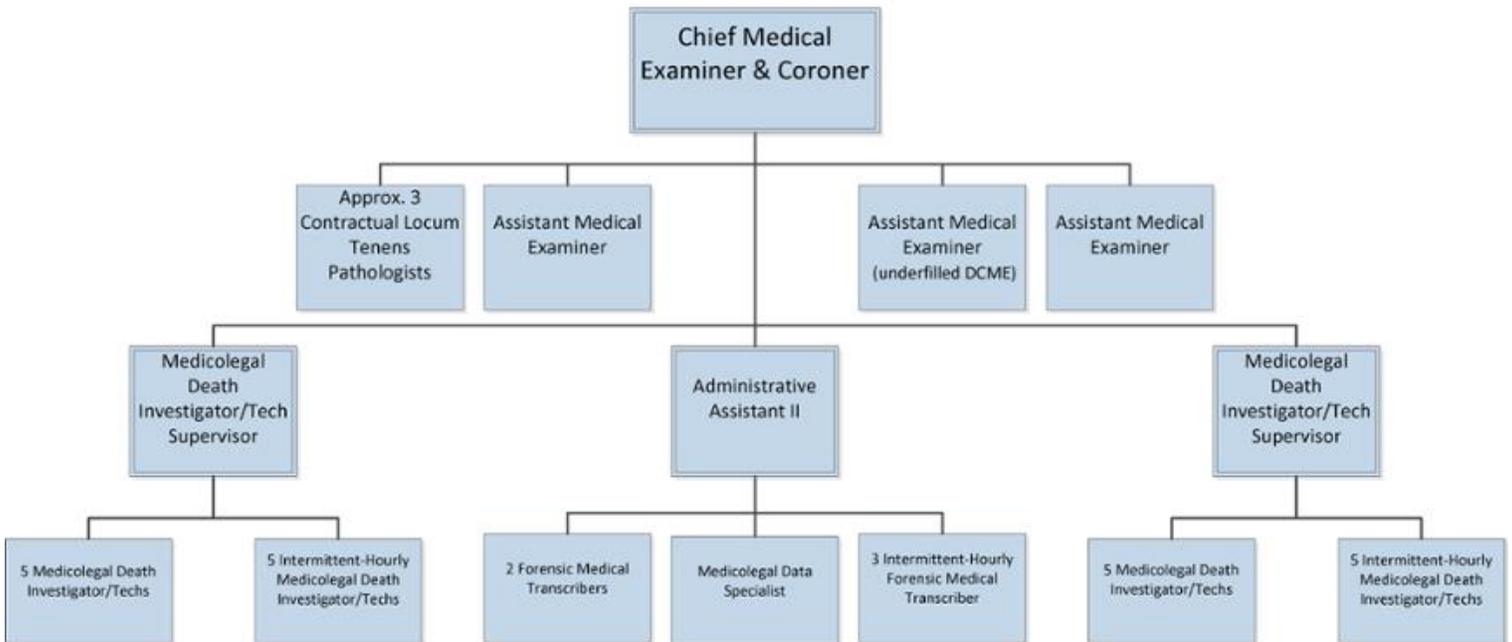
*Yours in service,*



**Dr. Laura D. Knight, MD**  
**Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner**

# Introduction

## Organizational Chart



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO) is to investigate unexpected and unexplained deaths in order to identify and report on the cause and manner of death. We apply scientific investigative techniques and medical procedures, using integrity and compassion, to serve families and public agencies impacted by sudden unexpected death.

## **Statutory Authority**

The WCRMEO is primarily governed by Chapter 259, 440, and 451 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Chapter 35 of the Washoe County Code (WCC). NRS 259 requires that each county have a coroner and WCC 35 creates the Medical Examiner system to fulfill coroner duties.

## **Description**

The Medical Examiner investigates sudden or unexpected deaths, traumatic deaths, and suspicious deaths. Certain categories of sudden death, by law, must be reported to and investigated by this office. All suspicious and many apparent natural death scenes in Washoe County are attended and evaluated by trained Medicolegal Death Investigators employed by the Medical Examiner's Office. Many reported deaths are ultimately determined to be due to natural causes, but a significant number of reported cases are found to be due to accidents, homicidal trauma, and suicides. Of the deaths reported to and falling within the office's jurisdiction in 2018, 68% required autopsy or other medical examination and an additional 32% required detailed review of medical history and circumstances of death. Board-certified forensic pathologists (medical doctors specializing in forensic pathology) conduct these autopsy and medical examinations.

Responsibilities of the office include:

- Determining the cause and manner of death for jurisdictional cases
- Electronic certification of death certificates in all cases of unnatural death and in many cases of natural death
- Conducting investigations of death scenes
- Identifying, collecting and processing evidence in order to ensure scientific integrity and usefulness
- Recognizing unsuspected homicidal violence
- Recognizing and reporting communicable and dangerous diseases, poisonings, and consumer product safety concerns
- Positively identifying the dead
- Notifying the decedent's next of kin and providing proper assistance to grieving families
- Ensuring integrity of the personal property of decedents
- Providing expert legal testimony in criminal and civil matters
- Preparing for and responding to mass disasters
- Assisting in providing for burial of indigent citizens in accordance with law

## **Community and Academic Involvement**

The WCRMEO is very active throughout the community. In 2018 WCRMEO staff made many presentations to the community including the Nevada Law Enforcement Academy, Nevada Department of Public Safety, the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Washoe County Career Fair, the Peer Support Group, and lectures to medical students at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). The office also holds a two day conference on death scene investigation for law enforcement agencies in the region. Each pathologist in the office has a letter of appointment to teach at the University of Nevada, Reno with a rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. In addition, the office hosted educational rotations for dozens of UNR medical students, as well as law enforcement officers, and many others.

Dr. Laura Knight was a co-author on six scientific abstracts presented at state and national conferences. These papers represent collaborations with UNR medical students and community health sciences students, UNR anthropology faculty and students, the State Office for Suicide Prevention, and other forensic pathologists from across the United States. Additionally, Dr. Laura Knight and Assistant Medical Examiner Dr. Katherine Callahan co-authored an article titled “The Pancreas in Child Abuse” in the peer-reviewed medical journal, *Academic Forensic Pathology*. Dr. Knight also served on the journal’s editorial board and as a guest editor.

## **Awards and Honors**

In 2018, the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office won the following awards.

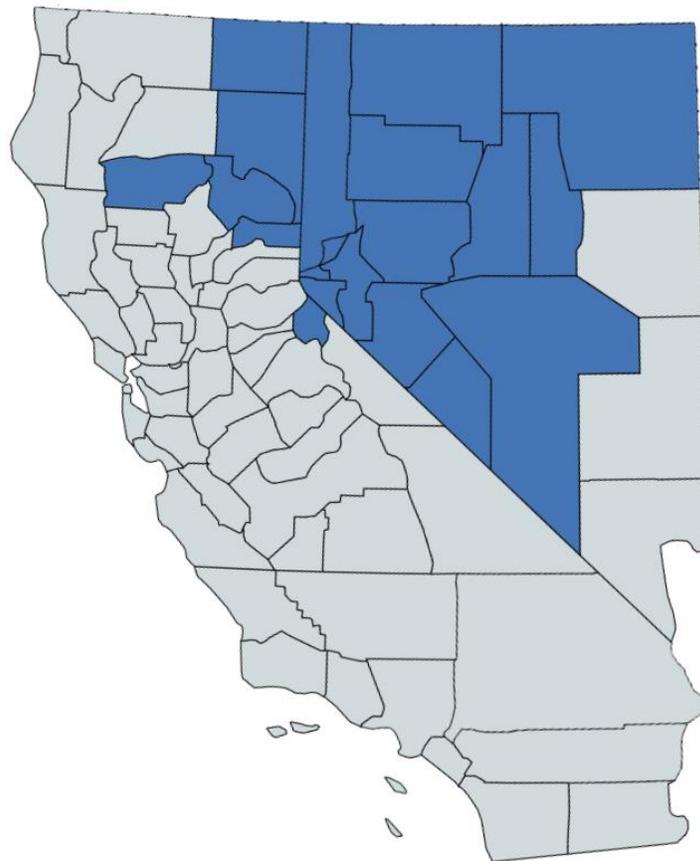
- Hope Strength Life Award from Nevada Donor Network (NDN)
- The Platinum Level Partner Award from NDN and HRSA (US Health Resources and Services Administration) for the office's efforts to promote organ and tissue donation
- Forensic Leader of the Month from the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) to Dr. Laura D. Knight, April 2018

- AOPO Professional Leadership Award to Dr. Laura Knight, October 2018, “in grateful recognition of her outstanding and ongoing contributions through leadership and collaboration with the field of organ and tissue donation”
- The Heroes with Heart Award from the Trauma Intervention Prevention Programs (TIP) to Investigator/Technician Kelli Oxborrow

## Jurisdiction and Service Area

The WCRMEO's primary jurisdiction is Washoe County. However, the office provides services to 13 additional Nevada counties (including the state capital) and 6 California counties through interlocal agreements.

**California Counties**  
Alpine  
Lassen  
Modoc  
Plumas  
Sierra  
Tehama



**Nevada Counties**  
Carson City (state capital)  
Churchill  
Douglas  
Elko  
Esmeralda  
Eureka  
Humboldt  
Lander  
Lyon  
Mineral  
Nye  
Pershing  
Storey  
Washoe

WCRMEO service area highlighted in blue

## Examination Types and Descriptions

<b>Autopsy</b>	A full postmortem examination encompassing detailed examination of the exterior and interior of the body, including dissection of internal organs and structures, to determine cause of death. Specimens for additional studies, such as toxicology testing, are obtained during the autopsy.
<b>Limited Autopsy-Head Only</b>	An autopsy examination limited to the external examination of the entire body and internal examination of only the head. Used in select trauma or suspected trauma cases only. Toxicology specimens can be obtained during a limited autopsy.
<b>External Examination</b>	An examination of the exterior of the body that documents identifying features, stigmata of disease, and findings of injury, without accompanying internal dissection. Toxicology specimens such as blood can be obtained during an external examination.
<b>Consultation</b>	Death investigated by the WCRMEO in which no physical examination is performed because the decedent has well-documented medical condition(s) and no primary care physician, or trauma with prolonged hospitalization, determined to be the cause of death. A Medical Examiner reviews medical records and circumstances of death and completes the death certificate.
<b>Jurisdiction Terminated</b>	Natural death from known natural disease that is reported to the WCRMEO but does not fall within its jurisdiction

## Manner of Death Types and Descriptions

<b>Natural</b>	Death caused by a natural disease or medical condition
<b>Suicide</b>	Death caused by a purposeful self-action with the intent of ending one's own life
<b>Homicide</b>	Death at the hands of another
<b>Accident</b>	Death caused by an unintentional action or external factor
<b>Undetermined</b>	Death in which the cause of death may or may not be known, but the circumstances in which the death came about are unknown or cannot be determined

# General Statistics

## Total Cases by Type

	2015	2016	2017	2018	'17-'18 Percent Change
<b>Autopsies</b>	565	657	740	784	+6%
<b>Consultations</b>	655	641	534	527	-1%
<b>External Exams</b>	316	279	265	269	+2%
<b>Head-Only Autopsy</b>	27	54	42	48	+14%
<b>Jurisdiction Terminated</b>	2255	2622	3103	3368	+9%
<b>Total Cases Reported</b>	<b>3819</b>	<b>4253</b>	<b>4684</b>	<b>4996</b>	+7%

## State of Residence

Alaska	3	Montana	1
Arizona	4	Nebraska	1
California	387	Nevada	4479
Colorado	3	New Mexico	1
Delaware	1	North Carolina	1
Florida	5	North Dakota	1
Hawaii	2	Oregon	9
Idaho	6	Texas	2
Illinois	1	Utah	4
Indiana	2	Vermont	1
Kansas	1	Washington	10
Louisiana	1	Wisconsin	1
Michigan	1	Wyoming	1
Mississippi	1	Unknown	65
Missouri	1		

## Total Examination Cases\* by Manner of Death

	2015**	2016	2017	2018	'17-'18 Percent Change
<b>Natural</b>	288	326	431	483	+12%
<b>Accident</b>	237	263	358	352	-2%
<b>Suicide</b>	137	170	165	165	0%
<b>Homicide</b>	34	38	46	42	-9%
<b>Undetermined</b>	41	27	43	58	+35%

\*Total Examination Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations completed by the WCRMEO.

\*\*Manner of death for cases occurring outside Washoe County limits is not certified by the WCRMEO but rather the local county coroner. The majority of outside county cases are reported back to the WCRMEO by the jurisdiction agency with manner of death after the death is certified. Prior to mid-2015, cases occurring outside Washoe County limits returned no manner of death reporting.

## Total Examination Cases\* by Sex

	2018	Percentage
<b>Male</b>	796	72%
<b>Female</b>	304	28%
<b>Unknown</b>	1	< 1%

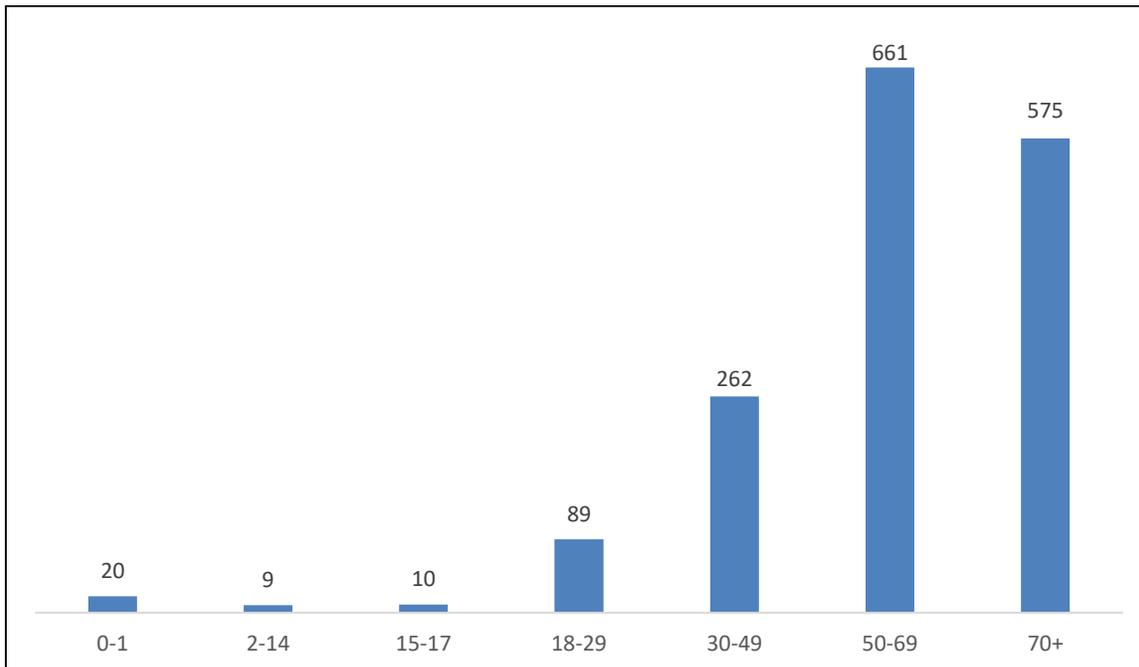
\*Total Examination Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations completed by the WCRMEO.

## Total Examination Cases\* by Race

	2018	Percentage
<b>White</b>	935	85%
<b>Mexican/Hispanic</b>	68	6%
<b>Black/African American</b>	37	3%
<b>American Indian/Native American</b>	26	2%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	34	3%
<b>Other</b>	8	<1%

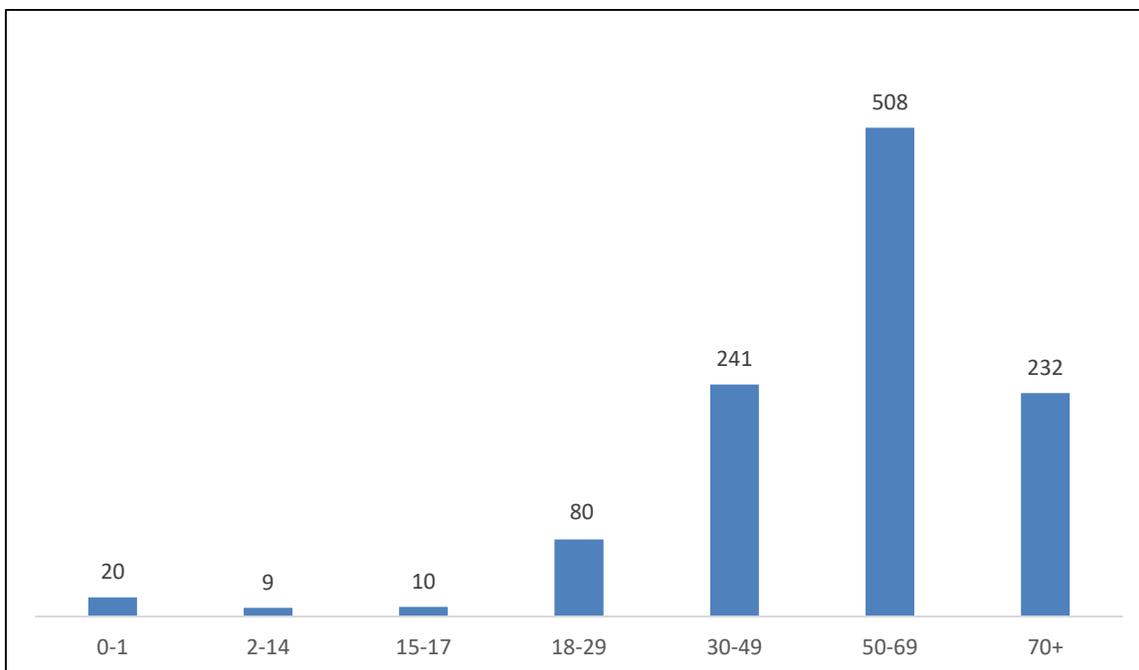
\*Total Examination Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations completed by the WCRMEO. Race information is reported by next of kin. Multiple races may be reported for a single decedent.

## Total ME Jurisdictional Cases\* by Age



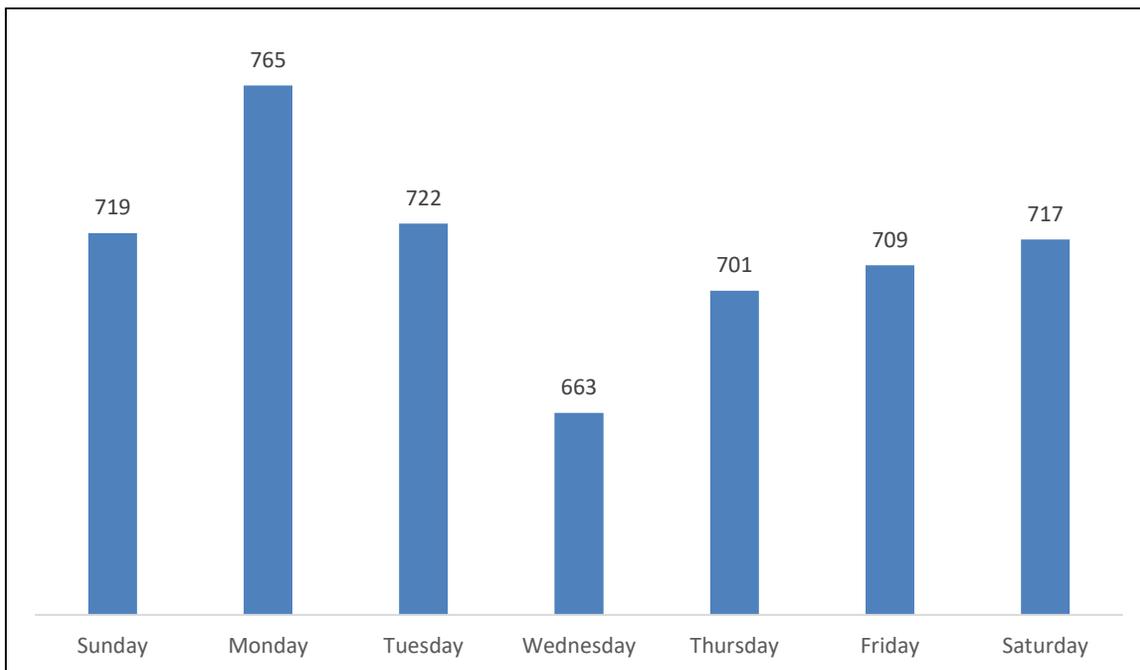
\*Total Medical Examiner Jurisdictional Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, external examinations, and consultations completed by the WCRMEO.

## Total Examination Cases\* by Age

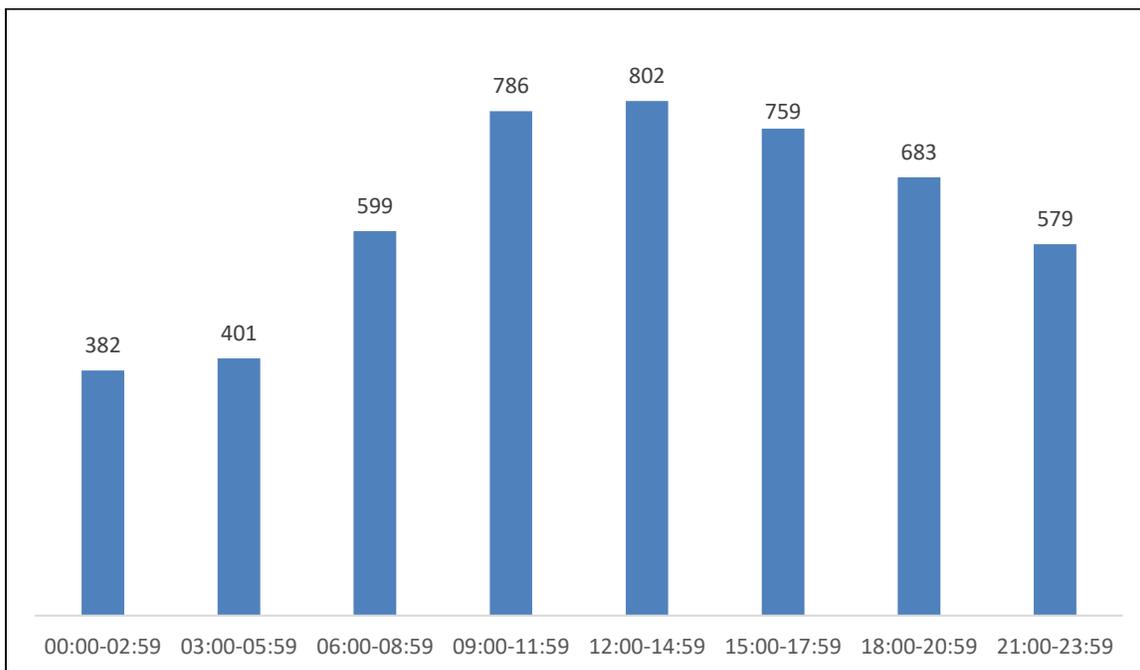


\*Total Examination Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations completed by the WCRMEO.

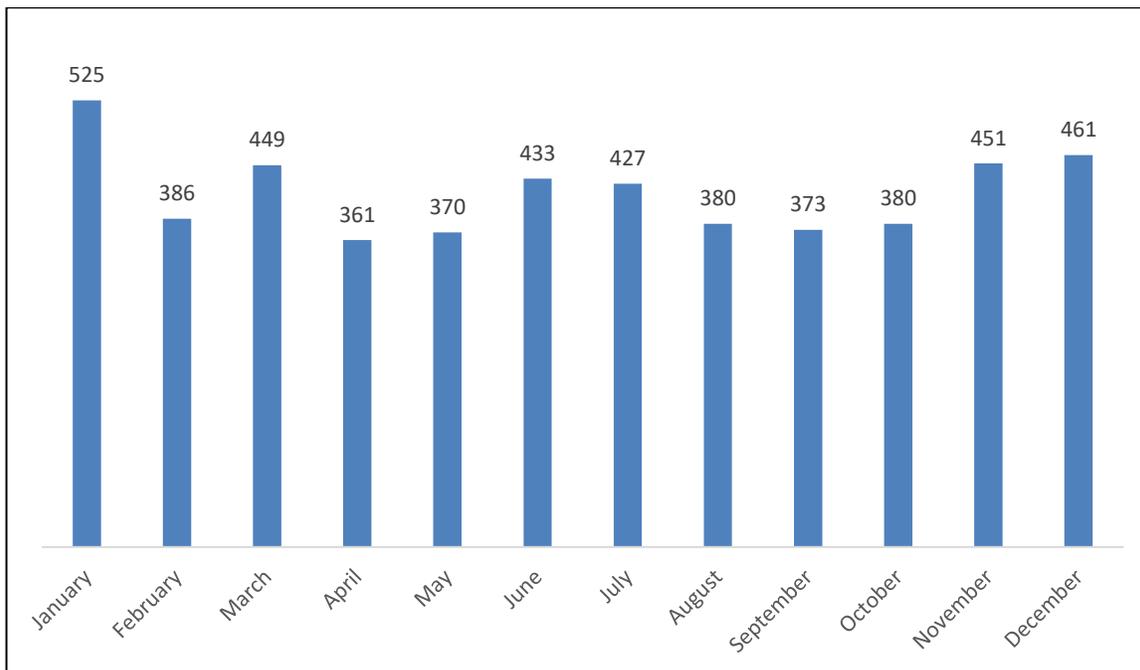
## Total Reported Deaths by Day of the Week



## Total Reported Deaths by Time of Death

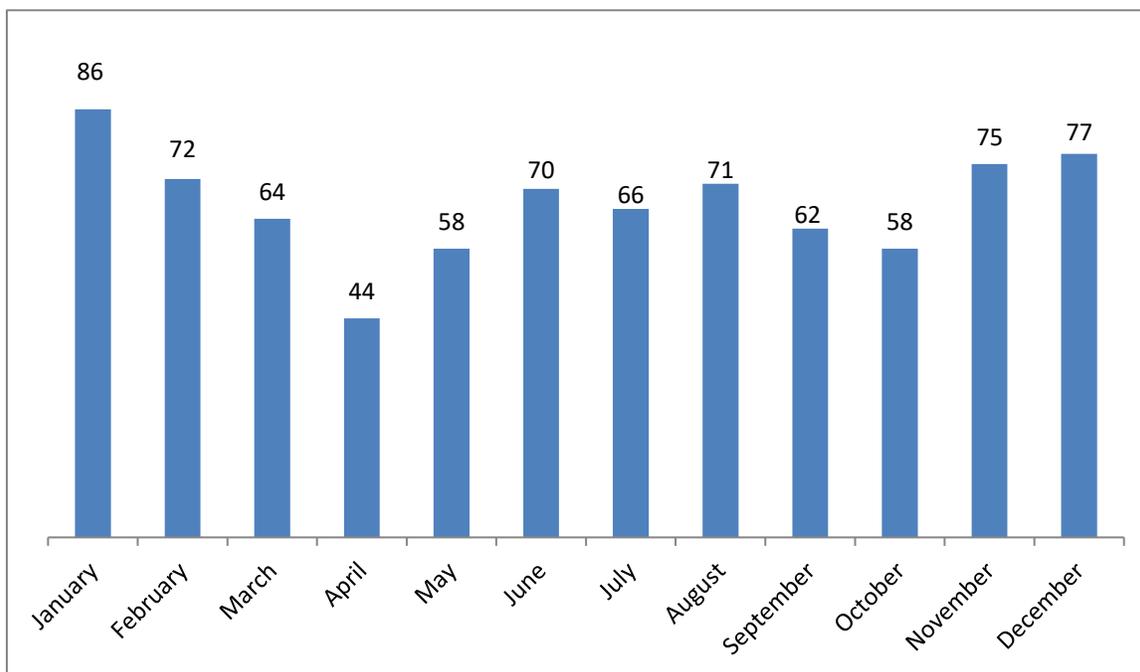


## Total Reported Deaths by Month



## Scene Responses by Month

803 total scene responses in 2018



# Specific Causes & Types of Death

## Major Causes of Death, for Each Manner of Death

For All\* Autopsy/External Examination and Consultation Cases Performed at WCRMEO

### NATURAL

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Cardiac (Atherosclerotic and/or Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease, Congestive Heart Failure, Coronary Artery Disease, Cardiomyopathy, Myocardial Infarction)</b>	437	55%
<b>Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease</b>	49	6%
<b>Complications of Chronic Alcoholism</b>	48	6%
<b>Cancer</b>	29	4%
<b>Complications of Diabetes and/or Ketoacidosis</b>	24	3%
<b>Infections</b>	18	2%
<b>Others</b>	187	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>100%</b>

### ACCIDENT

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Complications of blunt force injuries, fractures, &amp; falls</b>	293	52%
<b>Drug intoxication</b>	175	31%
<b>Asphyxia, various types</b>	13	2%
<b>Drowning</b>	10	2%
<b>Hypothermia</b>	7	1%
<b>Others</b>	64	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>100%</b>

### SUICIDE

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Gunshot wound</b>	98	58%
<b>Hanging</b>	26	15%
<b>Drug Intoxication</b>	24	14%
<b>Asphyxia (Intentional)</b>	7	4%
<b>Jump from Height</b>	5	3%
<b>Sharp Force Injuries</b>	5	3%

<b>Blunt Force Injuries (Intentional)</b>	4	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>100%</b>

## HOMICIDE

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Gunshot Wound(s)</b>	27	64%
<b>Sharp Force Injuries</b>	9	21%
<b>Blunt Force Injuries</b>	5	12%
<b>Strangulation</b>	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>

## UNDETERMINED

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Undetermined Cause</b>	27	45%
<b>Drug Intoxication</b>	18	30%
<b>Traumatic Injuries (Unexplained)</b>	9	15%
<b>Thermal Injuries and/or Smoke Inhalation</b>	2	3%
<b>Drowning</b>	2	3%
<b>Others</b>	2	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Includes Washoe County and outside counties covered by interlocal agreement

## WASHOE COUNTY HOMICIDES BY AREA \*

Injury Location	Number
<b>Reno</b>	15
<b>Sparks</b>	5
<b>Wadsworth</b>	1

\* Cases included are only those where injury and death occurred in Washoe County

## HOMICIDES BY COUNTY

County of Death	Total
<b>Carson City</b>	1
<b>Churchill</b>	1
<b>Douglas</b>	1
<b>Elko</b>	5
<b>Humboldt</b>	3
<b>Lassen</b>	3
<b>Lyon</b>	1
<b>Washoe</b>	27*

\*Includes those who were injured in another county but died in a Washoe County hospital

## Washoe County Transportation Deaths

There were 77 transportation-related deaths in Washoe County in 2018, up from 76 in 2017 and down from 88 in 2016.

### Transportation Deaths, By Sex

Gender	2016	2017	2018	Percentage of Change '17 to '18
<b>Male</b>	66	54	58	+7%
<b>Female</b>	22	22	19	-14%

### Transportation Deaths, By Age

Age	2016	2017	2018	Percentage of Change '17 to '18
<b>0-17</b>	3	7	2	-71%
<b>18-29</b>	20	12	17	+42%
<b>30-49</b>	23	14	13	-7%
<b>50-69</b>	32	22	21	-5%
<b>70+</b>	10	21	24	+14%

### Transportation Deaths, By Role

Role	2016	2017	2018	Percentage of Change '17 to '18
<b>Driver/Operator</b>	49	47	44	-6%
<b>Pedestrian</b>	23	15	18	+20%
<b>Passenger</b>	12	10	14	+40%
<b>Cyclist</b>	1	4	1	-75%

## Washoe County Drug Intoxication Deaths

2018 saw drug intoxication deaths remain steady, after a large increase in 2017 mostly due to illicit drugs in the form of methamphetamine. The bulk of 2018 illicit drug-related deaths remained due to methamphetamine. Fewer designer drugs were seen in 2018. More natural deaths due to the effects of chronic drug abuse were recorded. Note: In this reporting, illicit, prescription, and over-the-counter drug death data was stratified in more detail beginning in 2017.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total Drug Deaths (Washoe County)</b>	125	145	109	133	110	173	169
<b>Major Categories*</b>							
<b>Illicit Drugs Only</b>	36	54	41	53	38	78	73
<b>Illicit Drugs and Ethanol Combined</b>						1	5
<b>Illicit Drugs &amp; Over-the-Counter Drugs Combined</b>						2	1
<b>Prescription Drugs Only</b>						34	31
<b>Prescription Drugs and Ethanol Combined</b>						11	10
<b>Prescription Drugs Only, or Prescription &amp; Over-the-Counter Drugs Combined</b>	77	64	64	65	43	N/A	N/A
<b>Prescription &amp; Over-the-Counter Drugs Combined</b>						8	4
<b>Over-the-Counter Drugs Only, or Over-the-Counter Drugs and Ethanol Combined</b>						6	3
<b>Illicit and Prescription Drugs Combined</b>	8	17	2	11	19	22	22
<b>Prescription Drugs, Illicit Drugs, &amp; Ethanol Combined</b>						2	4
<b>Prescription Drugs, Over-the-Counter Drugs, &amp; Ethanol Combined</b>						1	0
<b>Huffing volatiles/intoxicants, with or without other drugs</b>						1	1
<b>Unable to Determine Specific Drugs Involved</b>						2	0
<b>Long Term Effects of Chronic Drug Abuse Without Acute Intoxication</b>						5	16
<b>Illicit-involved Deaths, By Drug*</b>							
<b>Methamphetamine (Without Heroin)</b>	25	50	26	43	46	69	82
<b>Heroin (Without Methamphetamine)</b>	11	9	12	13	16	13	10
<b>Methamphetamine and Heroin</b>	3	4	3	8	9	16	13
<b>Fentanyl (Alone)</b>							2
<b>Fentanyl and Methamphetamine</b>							1
<b>Fentanyl and Heroin</b>							0
<b>Cocaine (Alone or With Others)</b>	5	11	4	3	4	5	8
<b>Designer Drugs</b>	1	0	0	0	4	9	1

\*Not inclusive of all intoxication deaths.

### Drug Intoxication Deaths, By Sex

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	118	70%
Female	51	31%

### Drug Intoxication Deaths, By Age

Age	Number	Percentage
0-17	1	<1%
18-29	12	7%
30-49	50	30%
50-69	91	54%
70+	15	9%

### Methamphetamine-related Deaths, By Age

Age	Number	Percentage
0-17	0	0%
18-29	5	5%
30-49	30	32%
50-69	53	56%
70+	7	7%

### Methamphetamine-related Deaths, By Sex

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	77	81%
Female	18	19%

### Heroin Intoxication Deaths, By Age

Age	Number	Percentage
0-17	0	0%
18-29	4	17%
30-49	12	52%
50-69	7	30%
70+	0	0%

### Heroin Intoxication Deaths, By Sex

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	16	70%
Female	7	30%

### Washoe County Drug Death Comparison

Type	2016	2017	2018	Percentage of Change '17 to '18
Total Deaths	110	173	169	-2%
Methamphetamine-related Deaths	55	85	85	0%
Heroin-related Deaths	25	29	23	-21%
Designer Drug-related Deaths	4	9	1	-89%
Prescription Drug-related Deaths	62	78	71	-9%

### Washoe County Prescription\* Opioid-related Deaths

Type	2016	2017	2018	Percentage of Change '17 to '18
Total Deaths	52	69	49	-29%

\*Of note, there is some difficulty in determining whether various opioids are prescribed or illicit.

# Statistics on Vulnerable Populations and Other Special Categories

## Washoe County Homeless Person Deaths

*Deaths of homeless individuals (persons with no fixed address or living quarters) reported to the WCRMEO are specifically tracked in the WCRMEO case database. There was an increase of 10 deaths in 2018 (37%) compared to 2017. Most of the deaths were accidental in nature or due to natural disease.*

### Washoe County Homeless Deaths, By Sex

Gender	2016	2017	2018
<b>Male</b>	23	23	32
<b>Female</b>	1	4	5
<b>Total</b>	24	27	37

### Washoe County Homeless Deaths, By Age

Age	2016	2017	2018
<b>0-17</b>	0	0	0
<b>18-29</b>	1	2	1
<b>30-49</b>	6	7	11
<b>50-69</b>	14	14	23
<b>70+</b>	3	4	2

### Washoe County Homeless Deaths, By Manner of Death

Manner	2016	2017	2018
<b>Accident</b>	11	12	22
<b>Natural</b>	9	9	7
<b>Homicide</b>	0	2	3
<b>Suicide</b>	2	2	3
<b>Undetermined</b>	2	2	2

## Washoe County Homeless Person Deaths, by Manner of Death, Cause of Death

### ACCIDENT

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Drug-related deaths</b>	16	73%
<b>Blunt Force Injuries</b>	3	14%
<b>Hypothermia due to environmental exposure</b>	1	5%
<b>Alcoholism</b>	1	5%
<b>Drowning</b>	1	5%

### NATURAL

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Cardiovascular Disease</b>	5	71%
<b>Complications of Chronic Alcoholism</b>	1	14%
<b>Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage</b>	1	14%

### HOMICIDE

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Sharp Force Injuries</b>	2	66%
<b>Blunt Force Injuries</b>	1	33%

### SUICIDE

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Gunshot Wound of Head</b>	2	66%
<b>Fall</b>	1	33%

### UNDETERMINED

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
<b>Drowning</b>	1	50%
<b>Undetermined</b>	1	50%

## Law Enforcement-Involved Deaths in Washoe County

Type of Death	Number
<b>In-Custody Deaths (Jail)</b>	0
<b>Officer-Involved Shootings*</b>	4

\*For disambiguation purposes: While these deaths from officer-involved shootings occurred within Washoe County, these statistics include Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Reno Police Department, and Sparks Police Department.

## Washoe County Incarcerated/In-Custody Deaths, by Manner of Death

Manner	Number	Percent
<b>Natural</b>	0	0%
<b>Accident</b>	0	0%
<b>Homicide</b>	0	0%
<b>Suicide</b>	0	0%
<b>Undetermined</b>	0	0%

\*There were no In-Custody deaths in Washoe County in 2018

## Washoe County Pediatric Deaths

A total of 20 deaths of individuals aged 17 and under fell under WCRMEO jurisdiction in Washoe County in 2018.

### Washoe County Pediatric Deaths, by Manner of Death

Manner	Number	Percent
<b>Accident</b>	6	30%
<b>Undetermined</b>	6	30%
<b>Natural</b>	5	25%
<b>Suicide</b>	2	10%
<b>Homicide</b>	1	5%

### Washoe County Pediatric Causes of Death

Manner	Cause of Death	Number
<b>Accident</b>	Asphyxia	4
	Blunt Force	2
<b>Homicide</b>	Blunt Force Injuries	1
<b>Natural</b>	Acute And Chronic Bronchial Asthma	1
	Complications of Influenza B	1
	Disseminated Herpes Simplex Virus Infection	1
	Spontaneous Intrauterine Fetal Demise	1
	Sudden Unexplained Death In Childhood	1
	Undetermined	5
<b>Suicide</b>	Drug Intoxication	1
	Hanging	1
<b>Undetermined</b>	Gastrointestinal Intraluminal Hemorrhage	1
	Undetermined	5

## Washoe County Senior Deaths

There were 533 deaths at 65 years of age and older that met the criteria for Medical Examiner jurisdiction. Deaths in seniors present special challenges, such as the need to rule out neglect or abuse, and the propensity for ultimately lethal injury from simple falls.

### Senior Deaths, By Sex

Gender	Number	Percent
<b>Female</b>	221	41%
<b>Male</b>	312	59%

### Senior Deaths, By Manner of Death

Manner	Number	Percent
<b>Natural</b>	272	51%
<b>Accident</b>	229	43%
<b>Suicide</b>	25	5%
<b>Homicide</b>	5	1%
<b>Undetermined</b>	2	<1%

### Causes of Death

Manner	Cause	Number
<b>Natural</b>	Cardiovascular related	187
	Pulmonary related	23
	Other	62
<b>Accident</b>	Fall related	183
	Motor vehicle related	19
	Drug related	16
	Other	11
<b>Suicide</b>	Gunshot Wound	17
	Blunt force trauma	4
	Drug Related	3
	Hanging	1
<b>Homicide</b>	Stab Wounds	1
	Strangulation	1
<b>Undetermined</b>	Drug Related	2
	Blunt Force Trauma	2
	Undetermined	1

## Other Statistics of Interest<sup>+</sup>

- 1,495 bodies were transported to and stored at the Medical Examiner's Office in 2018, compared to 1,463 bodies in 2017 and 1,320 bodies in 2016.
- A total of 1,791 bodies were transported on the order of the WCRMEO in 2018.
- There were 100 unclaimed and abandoned decedents reported to the WCRMEO in 2018.
- Toxicology testing was performed on 1,022 cases in 2018, 956 cases in 2017, and 809 cases in 2016.
- There was one 1 case in which a decedent remained unidentified after thorough investigation in 2018, and 0 cases in 2017 and 2016.
- 39 organ, 105 tissue, and 197 ocular donations were performed on Medical Examiner cases in 2018, with the full cooperation of the WCRMEO.
- The WCRMEO participated in zero (0) exhumations in 2018.

<sup>+</sup>Required by the National Association of Medical Examiners for accreditation purposes.